

***Remarks***

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-21 and 23-29 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 15 and 24 being the independent claims. Claim 22 is sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 23-29 are sought to be added. Claims 1, 2, 4, 13, 15, 20-21 have been amended to provide clarification and to better define the invention. Claims 9-12, 14, 16, 17-19 have been amended to correct numbering, punctuation and other grammatical errors. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

The specification as originally filed provides ample support for the amendments to the claims and for new claims 23-29.

Further, FIG. 1 is not the appropriate figure and was inadvertently submitted with this application. You will note that the specification states

Reference is made to FIG. 3, which shows an injection molding apparatus 40, in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention. The injection molding apparatus 40 may be any suitable type of injection molding apparatus, and may be generally similar to the injection molding apparatus 1010 [of FIG. 1], except that the injection molding apparatus 40 includes a valve pin 42 and a guidance and alignment system 44.

See paragraph [0044] of page 10 of the Specification. As such, FIG. 1 should have been almost identical to FIG. 3, but without the guidance and alignment system and with the valve pin labeled with a different number. However, as you can see, the injection molding apparatus 1010 of FIG. 1 filed herewith is not similar to the injection molding apparatus 40 of FIG. 3. As such, a replacement FIG. 1, which is the same as FIG. 1 filed in the parent

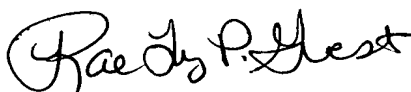
provisional application is submitted herewith along with the rest of the formal drawings. Further, the image in FIG. 1 as filed with the application was labeled "Prior Art," however, that image is not accurately prior art. Instead, that figure was filed in U.S. Patent Application No. 10/369,564, which is commonly owned with the present application. As such, the figure is not prior art.

### ***Conclusion***

Entry of the replacement FIG. 1 and of the claims as amended or added herein along with prompt and favorable consideration thereof is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 8, 2004

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